IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claim 13, as shown below.

1.   (Previously Presented) A communications system, comprising:

a first communications node;

a second communications node;

a plurality of charging nodes; and

a first memory;

said first node configured to send charging information to at least one of said charging nodes,

said second node configured to send charging information to at least one of said charging nodes,

said first memory configured to store information identifying one of said charging nodes as being a default charging node for a communication session; wherein

said first node and said second node are configured to send respective charging information for said session to said default charging node using said information stored in said first memory, when said default charging node is available.

2-3.   (Cancelled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communications system is a universal mobile telecommunications system architecture communications system.

5.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said communications system is a general packet radio service architecture communications system.

6.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first communications node is a gateway general packet radio service support node.

7.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said second communications node is a serving general packet radio service support node.

8.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one charging node comprises a charging gateway function.

9.   (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least one charging node is a charging gateway.

10. (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 1, wherein said first memory is located within said first or said second communications node.

11. (Previously Presented) The communications system as claimed in claim 10, further comprising:

a second memory located within the other of said first or second communications node,

wherein said second memory is configured to store information identifying at least one of said charging nodes and said first memory is configured so that the value stored in said memory is synchronised with the value stored in said second memory.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

storing, in a first memory, information identifying one of a plurality of charging nodes associated with a communication session of a communications system as a default charging node to which a first communications node is to send charging information for said session; and

sending said charging information for said session from a said first

communications node to said default charging node when said default charging node is

available; and

billing in the communications system based on said charging information.

14-18. (Cancelled)

19.   (Previously Presented) A gateway communication node, comprising:

a memory configured to store information identifying a default charging node

associated with a communication session to which said node is to send charging

information for said session,

wherein said node is configured to send charging information for said session to

said default charging node when said default charging node is available.

20.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein said node

is configured to send said information identifying said default charging node in said

memory to a second node.

21.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

sending charging information from a second communications node to said default node.

22.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

storing in a second memory said information identifying said default charging node.

23.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 22, further comprising:

maintaining said first memory and said second memory so that the information identifying the default charging node is the same.

24.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

sending said information identifying said default charging node in said first memory to a second node.

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25.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

generating charging information for a packet data connection; and

selecting said default charging node in dependence on the communication session with which the packet data connection is associated.

26.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

storing information identifying said default charging node in said first memory in response to creating a first packet data connection for said communication session.

27.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

sending charging information to a secondary charging node when said default charging node is not reachable.

28.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said storing comprises selecting a charging node being currently determined as an active charging node and storing in said first memory said active charging node as said default charging node to be associated with the communication session.

29.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, further comprising:

configuring said session to comprise a plurality of packet data connections.

30.   (Previously Presented) The method as claimed in claim 13, wherein said sending said charging information comprises sending a charging data record.

31.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein said node is a gateway general packet radio service support node.

32.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, said node being configured to generate charging information for a packet data connection, and to select said default charging node in dependence on the communication session with which said packet data connection is associated.

33.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein said memory is configured to store said information identifying said default charging node in response to a creation of a first packet data connection for said communication session.

34. (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein the node is configured to send generated charging information of said session to said default charging node.

35. (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein the node is configured to send generated charging information to a secondary charging node when said default charging node is not reachable.

36. (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 35, wherein said secondary charging node is a currently active charging node for said node.

37. (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein the node is configured to select a charging node being currently determined as an active charging node for said node and to store in said memory said active charging node as said default charging node to be associated with said communication session.

38. (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein the node is configured to instruct a second node said assigned default charging node for said session.

39.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein said session comprises a plurality of packet data connections.

40.   (Previously Presented) The node as claimed in claim 19, wherein said charging information comprises a charging data record.

41.   (Previously Presented) A node, comprising:

means for storing information identifying a default charging node associated with a communication session to which said node is to send charging information for said session; and

means for sending said charging information for said session to said default charging node when said default charging node is available.